

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1510 without my signature.

The purpose of the School Accountability Report Card (SARC) is to ensure that parents, teachers, students, and the general public have access to information about schools so that they can compare schools, and determine where children will be best served. However, over the years the SARC has encompassed so many different types of information that it can be unwieldy for average Californians to easily decipher the most relevant pieces of information presented.

While this bill moves in the right direction in attempting to streamline the SARC, instead of a piecemeal approach, I prefer that my Administration and the Legislature work with the California Department of Education and the State Board of Education to achieve a comprehensive overhaul of the SARC so that it is more user-friendly to anyone that receives it or that would want to access the information online over the Internet. Among other things that should be highlighted in the SARC, I believe Californians want a higher level of fiscal transparency, particularly information that identifies how much money is actually spent for direct classroom instruction, or for services that directly improve the academic achievement of students. Parents should be able to easily compare schools, how the funds are being used in their child's school, what services and classes are offered, the experience level of the teachers and principal and the academic results. We should also consider reformatting the display of the SARC so that the most relevant information is highlighted up front.

I look forward to signing a bill that will make these changes. Until that time, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger